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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	EB-01	OIGO-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-10
	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/051W			

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O 230917Z SEP 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0066
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 001606

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PREF, PREL, RW, US
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO GOR ON REPORTS OF RPA ATROCITIES

REF: STATE 254232

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY. U/S WIRTH DELEGATION MET SEPTEMBER 20 WITH RWANDA PM TWAGIRAMUNGU TO DELIVER DEMARCH REGARDING ISSUES RAISED BY GERSONY REPORT (REFTEL). WIRTH TOLD THE PM HIS VISIT HAD THREE ELEMENTS: TO REGISTER USG CONCERNS REGARDING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE REPORT'S FINDINGS; TO HEAR THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT'S REACTIONS AND TO LEARN OF THE NEXT STEPS PLANNED BY THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES RAISED. TWAGIRAMUNGU RESPONDED THAT, THOUGH HE DOUBTED THE METHODOLOGY OF THE REPORT, HE UNDERSTOOD THE DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES, THAT THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT WANTED TO INVESTIGATE AND HAVE OTHERS DO THE SAME AND THAT HIS COUNTRY

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REMAINED COMMITTED TO RECONCILIATION. IN THAT REGARD, GOR HAS AGREED TO FORM JOINT GOR-UN COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE ALLEGATIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. U/S WIRTH, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR RAWSON, AF DAS BUSHNELL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT JOYCG AND AF POLMILAD FISHER ME WITH PM IMMEDIATELY UPON DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL IN RWANDA. WIRTH NOTED POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS DAMAGE TO INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT BY UNHCR-COMMISSIONED REPORT WHICH DETAILED ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY RPA.

(PM HAD BEEN BRIEFED THE NIGHT BEFORE BY UN KOFI ANNAN ON CONTENTS OF THE REPORT). US WAS PUSHING HARD TO HELP RWANDA ON JUSTICE ISSUES SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL, HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS AND INVESTIGATORS, WIRTH SAID, BUT A REPORT OF THIS KIND COULD GREATLY COMPLICATE THOSE EFFORTS. HE WAS HERE TO REGISTER U.S. CONCERNS, TO HEAR GOR REACTION AND TO INQUIRE ABOUT NEXT STEPS THE GOR WAS CONTEMPLATING TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE, EVEN BEFORE THE REPORT WAS MADE PUBLIC.

4. THE PM RESPONDED BY THANKING U/S FOR USG HUMANITARIAN
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ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA AND SAID HE REALIZED THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD TO ESTABLISH CREDIBILITY VIS A VIS ITS HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE. AS HE HAS CONSISTENTLY, PM SAID HE DID NOT DOUBT THAT ABUSES MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE, OR MIGHT STILL OCCUR. HOWEVER, HE HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE METHODOLOGY USED IN COMPILING THE REPORT, AS WELL AS THE TIMING OF KILLINGS ALLEGED IN THE REPORT. MOREOVER, THE FLEDGLING GOVERNMENT HAD NO POLICE, NO COURTS, NO STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE COUNTRY AND COULD NOT CONTROL ALL ACTS OF REVENGE PROMPTED BY THE HORRENDOUS MASSACRES BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. IN THE SOUTHEAST, WHERE MANY OF THE EVENTS ALLEGED IN THE REPORT TOOK PLACE, WAS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, HE EMPHASIZED; THE HUTU MILITIA WAS ACTIVE IN THAT AREA; THE RETURNEES FROM BURUNDI WERE ALSO KNOWN TO BE VERY AGGRESSIVE. IT WAS POSSIBLE ABUSES WERE BEING COMMITTED THERE BY A NUMBER OF GROUPS IN THAT AREA. STILL, HE DOUBTED THE UNHCR REPORT'S ALLEGATIONS OF SYSTEMATIC KILLINGS, -- 30,000 DEATHS ARE TOO MUCH -- AND QUESTIONED THE METHODOLOGY OF THE REPORT.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, ACCURATE OR NOT, PM ACKNOWLEDGED THE REPORT WOULD BE DAMAGING. IT WOULD PRECLUDE STABILITY, INDUCE FEAR IN THE CAMPS AND ADVERSELY AFFECT REPATRIATION, A GOAL DESIRED BY THE GOR AS WELL AS THE INTERNATIONAL

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COMMUNITY. THE GOVERNMENT WANTS PEOPLE TO FEEL NOT HUTU, NOT TUTSI, BUT RWANDESE, HE EMPHASIZED. WHEN ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOR WAS SYSTEMATICALLY INVITING TUTSIS BACK AND CHASING HUTUS OUT, THE PM SAID HE WOULD RESIGN IF THAT WERE TRUE. IT COULD NO ACCEPT THE STORIES OF ATROCITIES WITHOUT EVIDENCE; IT WOULD HAVE TO READ THE REPORT, TO INVESTIGATE AND TO HAVE OTHERS

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COME IN AND DO THE SAME. WHILE HE HAD TOLD GERSONY THAT TH REPORT SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED BEFORE THE GOR HAD A CHANCE T INVESTIGATE, HE ACKNOWLEDGE
D THIS MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE AND
THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO COPE.

6. U/S WIRTH URGED PM TO GET OUT IN FRONT ON THE ISSUE, TO COME UP WITH AN IMMEDIATE PLAN OF ACTION. IN THIS REGARD, HE SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF STEPS THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE SUCH AS SENDING THE PRESIDENT TO THE SOUTHEAST, PERHAPS TO INVITE GERSONY TO ACCOMPANY, TO URGE THE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS IN THAT REGION, TO ISSUE A PUBLIC ORDER TO THE MILITARY REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, AND TO INITIATE INVESTIGATIONS. THE BEST RESPONSE WAS TO BE PROACTIVE, NOT REACTIVE, IN SUCH A SITUATION. DAS BUSHNELL ADDED GOR MIGHT CONSIDER MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AND CALLING FOR ACCELERATED DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR TO THE SOUTHEAST. U/S URGED GOR TO BE AS VISIBLE AND PUBLIC AS POSSIBLE IN DEALIN WITH THIS ISSUE. NOTING IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS RWANDA, WIRTH PLEDGED U.S. HELP IN SUPPORTING GOR'S HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS.

7. PM AGREED TO CONSIDER THESE MEASURES AND SEEMED PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE SUGGESTION THAT THE GOR

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INVITE UN AGENCIES TO HELP WITH THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE
REPORT. HE SAID HE FELT SADDENED BY THE REPORT, AND THAT H
UNDERSTOOD THE CHALLENGES IT POSED. HE REITERATED HIS
COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION AND TO THE RETURN OF ALL

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RWANDANS. "WE MUST GIVE UP HATRED AND KILLING IF WE WANT
RECONCILIATION."

8. IN ABSENCE OF VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE MINISTER
KAGAME, U/S WIRTH MET SEPTEMBER 21 WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY
DIRECTOR OF CABINET ANDREW RWIGAMBA TO DELIVER A SIMILAR
MESSAGE. RWIGAMBA ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE REPORT,
ALLOWED FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF
REVENTS, AND INSISTED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INVESTIGATE THE
CHARGES IN THE REPORT AND WORK TO ENSURE THAT INCIDENTS OF
KILLINGS AND ABUSE WERE STOPPED. (IN AN ASIDE AFTER THE

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MEETING, HE EMPHASIZED HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS FOR RPA AND OTHERS NOW IN GOVERNMENT TO FACE THE REALITY OF SO MANY FAMILY AND FRIENDS MASSACRED.)

9. GOR HAS GIVEN AN EARLY INDICATION OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE QUICKLY AND WITH TRANSPARENCY. PROMPTED BY VISITING U/SYG ANNAN, SRSG KHAN AND GOR REPRESENTATIVES WORKED OUT AGREEMENT TO CONSTITUTE COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO ALLEGATIONS OF GERSONY'S REPORT. COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THREE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS (STILL TO BE IDENTIFIED), UNHCR, HUMAN RIGHTS OPERATIONS CHIEF BILL CLARENCE AND AN OFFICER TO BE DESIGNATED FROM UNAMIR. RAWSON

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